



Residency Program in Pharmacy Practice

The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (VA ECHCS) headquartered in Denver, Colorado is a Level 1A facility serving veterans in eastern Colorado and parts of Kansas. The VA ECHCS provides care for over 79,000 patients. The Denver VA Medical Center (DVAMC) is a 128 bed general medical/surgical teaching hospital and a 60 bed teaching nursing home affiliated with the University of Colorado and Regis University. A wide range of inpatient and ambulatory care services are provided, including internal medicine, primary care, surgery, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, cardiology, oncology, and mental health.

Residency Goals & Objectives

The goals of the residency program are to develop pharmacists in the skills necessary to

become competent, confident and compassionate providers of pharmaceutical care, as individuals and as members of the health care team. Residents will assure safe, cost-effective and appropriate drug therapy. They will take responsibility for solving drug related problems and assuring optimal drug therapy outcomes. Residents will become skilled educators and providers of drug information for patients and other health care providers. They will use clinical and administrative insight in the operation of medication use systems and in researching and solving pharmacy related problems. They will demonstrate professional maturity and commitment through continuous self-improvement.

Program Description

The residency is a 12-month period of education and experience in clinical pharmacy practice in a program tailored to the resident's needs. The resident's experiences throughout the year will include acute care, critical care, antibiotic stewardship, ambulatory care, anticoagulation management, ambulatory pain consult service, drug policy/formulary management, and administration. Residents will work collegially with physicians, nurse practitioners, and psychologists. Residents will provide care in a range of ambulatory clinics including chronic disease management, anticoagulation, geriatrics, hepatitis C, and pain clinics. Residents will prepare and present case presentations, journal clubs, and pharmacist staff development sessions. Residents will have the opportunity to teach and precept PharmD students from the University of Colorado and Regis University. A residency research project is required and each resident will present their project results at the regional ASHP Conference of Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors.

Residency Preceptors

Resident preceptors are clinical pharmacy specialists who practice in academia, administration, anticoagulation, cardiology, critical care, drug policy/formulary management, hepatitis C, geriatrics, infectious diseases, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, pain management, psychiatry, and primary care. Clinical pharmacy preceptors place a high value on resident training and are readily accessible to residents.

Drug Policy/Formulary Management, Administration & Drug Information

Experience and training in drug information, drug policy/formulary management, and administration occurs throughout the residency year. These are longitudinal experiences that provide residents experience in managing the practice. Residents participate in administrative meetings/discussions with supervisors, in Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee activities, drug use evaluations, adverse drug reaction reporting, and pharmacy quality improvement programs and activities.

Elective Opportunities

Residents may choose up to three 4-week elective experiences during the year. The elective time is used to tailor specific interests of the resident within the training program. Common elective rotations are cardiology, geriatrics, infectious diseases, neurology, home-based primary care, oncology, psychiatry, and a teaching & academia experience.

Typical Resident Schedule

July:

Orientation – 5 weeks

August-June:

Acute Care – 4 weeks

Ambulatory Care – 12 weeks

Attend ASHP Midyear – 1 week

Critical Care – 4 weeks

Formulary & Practice Management – 8 weeks

Electives – 12 weeks

Staffing

Residents staff 30 shifts throughout the year in the inpatient pharmacy in the evenings and on weekends (average of 5 hours per week). Staffing involves providing clinical & distributive services.

Benefits

The residency program provides a competitive compensation rate. Residents accumulate 13 days of paid vacation time & have 10 paid holidays per year. Sick leave is accumulated at a rate of 4 hours every 2 weeks. Health insurance is available. Residents share their own office with individual space including a computer and file cabinet. The hospital subscribes to a wide range of electronic reference materials including Micromedex, Up to Date, Natural Medicines Database, and a large number of electronic textbooks and journals. If the resident desires, there is the opportunity to earn extra money through a dual appointment and working as a staff pharmacist during non-duty hours.

Qualifications

Must be a United States citizen & have graduated from an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education accredited college or school of pharmacy. All residents are required to become licensed pharmacists, but they can be licensed in any of the states of the United States.

For information or questions, please contact:

Elizabeth O'Brien, PharmD, BCPS

PGY1 Residency Program Director

Pharmacy Service (119)

VA ECHCS Medical Center

1055 Clermont Street,

Denver, Colorado 80220

Elizabeth.O'Brien2@va.gov

303-399-8020 ext. 3916

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted electronically using PHORCAS. Requirements include:

- 1) A letter expressing interest in our program & why you have chosen to do a residency;
- 2) Curriculum vitae;
- 3) All college transcripts;
- 4) One example of technical writing such as a referenced drug information question/answer, drug monograph, or professional paper that has been submitted for college/school of pharmacy credit;
- 5) Three letters of recommendation.

All materials should be submitted on or before January 5th

Postgraduate Year 1

Pharmacy Residency Program



*Accredited by the
American Society of
Health-System
Pharmacists
since 1983*

**VA Eastern Colorado
Health Care System
Denver, Colorado**